

**Remarks**

This statement should not be interpreted as a representation that an exhaustive search has been conducted or that no better art exists. Moreover, Applicant invites the Examiner to make an independent evaluation of the cited art to determine its relevance to the subject matter of the present application. Applicant is of the opinion that his claims patentably distinguish over the art referred to herein, either alone or in combination.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. Pabst', written over a horizontal line.

Patrea L. Pabst  
Reg. No. 31,284

Dated: December 22, 2003

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
One Atlantic Center  
1201 West Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Suite 2000  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3400  
404-817-8473  
FAX 404-817-8588  
www.hklaw.com  
# 1467438\_v1

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**Remarks**

Applicants have revised the specification to reflect the updated priority data. Applicants have presented the amended claims in accordance with the revised amendment practice under 37 CFR §1.121. No new matter has been added by way of this Preliminary Amendment, entry of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrea L. Pabst', is written over a horizontal line.

Patrea L. Pabst  
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HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
2000 One Atlantic Center  
1201 West Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3400  
(404) 817-8473 (Telephone)  
(404) 817-8588 (Fax)

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